

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A hand-held mobile field device configured to provide wireless communication with a plurality of patient medical monitoring devices.
2. (Original) The mobile field device of Claim 1 further comprising an accessory interface.
3. (Original) The mobile field device of Claim 2 wherein the accessory interface is configured to provide wireless communication between the mobile field device and fixed inpatient room diagnostic units and continuous monitoring systems in patient rooms.
4. (Original) A mobile field device in accordance with Claim 1 further configured to provide patient medical diagnoses, personal digital assistant functionality, and net research and access.
5. (Currently amended) A network including at least one mobile field device configured to provide communication with a plurality of patient medical monitoring devices, the network being configured to aggregate and to make available to the mobile field unit [,] a combination of manual, automated, fixed continuous and mobile patient monitoring and assessments.
6. (Original) A network including at least one mobile field device configured to provide communication with a plurality of patient medical monitoring devices, and the network electronically connected to databases maintained by a hospital.
7. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 6 further comprising at least one electronic medical library database that distributes reference materials including textbooks,

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reference materials, periodicals, and medical research electronically, and wherein the mobile field device is configured to display the distributed reference materials.

8. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 6 used to electronically link medical, nursing, residents, fellows, and administrative students with a school's intellectual property materials, general medical references, and periodicals.

9. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 6 in which mobile field devices are used by health care consumers to electronically access medical information, drug information, and for self-monitoring as prescribed by a physician.

10. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the databases utilize a plurality of formats and protocols, and wherein security of communication is provided by format-dependent encryption algorithms.

11. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 6 configured to consolidate input by physicians, nurses, medical research/clinical personnel, and general medical staff, and to send the consolidated input to a member of the group consisting of administrative information databases, patient account records, insurance companies, hospital medical centers, health care information databases, and combinations thereof.

12. (Original) A network including at least one mobile field device configured to provide communication with a plurality of patient medical monitoring devices, the network further comprising a central repository containing medical information and a plurality of subsystem databases linked to the central repository via at least one member of the group consisting of encryption software and secure hardware that tags transmissions and retrievals.

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13. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 12 linking payment flow information between diagnostic related groups' patient hospital charges and third party insurance providers.

14. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 13 wherein security is provided biometrically.

15. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 14 wherein the biometric security comprises fingerprint recognition.

16. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 12 configured to provide secure patient information electronically on at least one of a local area network (LAN) and a mobile wireless network.

17. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 16 configured to disseminate pathology results and medical research to selected individuals.

18. (Original) A network including at least one mobile field device configured to provide communication with a plurality of patient medical monitoring devices, the network configured to link a prescription drug order processing system with prescription data and secure patient documentation and health assessment.

19. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 18 linking pharmaceutical companies, retailers, wholesalers, physicians, and nurses.

20. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:

a medical database;

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a secure medical database monitoring system communicatively coupled to the medical database; and a first data monitoring manager communicatively coupled to the secure medical database monitoring system;

wherein at least one of the secure medical database monitoring system and the data monitoring manager is configured to provide controlled electronic access to the medical database by a plurality of entities in accordance with a specification provided by an authorized user; and

wherein the network is configured to sequentially control said electronic access with respect to patient's data so that at least a first predetermined entity must access the patient's data before a second predetermined entity is permitted access.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A network in accordance with Claim [21] 20 further configured to selectively control portions of a patient's data, so that each accessing entity has only a predetermined, limited access to preselected portions of a patient's data, the preselected portions varying dependent upon the accessing entity.

23. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 22 further configured to provide a plurality of threads of accessing entity sequences.

24. (Original) A network in accordance with Claim 23 further configured to condition access to a portion of a patient's data upon prior access by more than one different entities.

25. (Original) A method for communicating medical data comprising communicating medical data wirelessly to a hand-held mobile field unit from a plurality of patient medical monitoring devices, and communicating the medical data received from the hand-held mobile field unit to a medical database via a secure network.

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26. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising wirelessly communicating between the mobile field unit and fixed inpatient room diagnostic units and continuous monitoring systems in patient rooms.

27. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising aggregating, and making available to the mobile field unit, a combination of manual, automated, fixed continuous and mobile patient monitoring and assessments.

28. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising electronically communicating information from databases maintained by a hospital to the mobile field unit.

29. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 28 further comprising transmitting encrypted data from the databases to the mobile field unit.

30. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising electronically consolidating input from physicians, nurses, medical research/clinical personnel, and general medical staff, and electronically transmitting the consolidated input to a member of the group consisting of administrative information databases, patient account records, insurance companies, hospital medical centers, health care information databases, and combinations thereof.

31. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising electronically linking payment flow information between diagnostic related groups' patient hospital charges and third party insurance providers.

32. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 31 further comprising providing biometric security for the electronic linking.

33. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 32 wherein the biometric security is provided by fingerprint recognition.

34. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 25 and further comprising limiting electronic dissemination of pathology results and medical research to selected individuals.

35. (Original) A method for controlling access to a medical database comprising: defining an access protocol for entities accessing patient data, including at least a first entity having initial access to the patient data; permitting access to the patient data by the at least first entity; conditioning each further access to the patient data by additional entities upon prior access by at least one predetermined prior entity.

36. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 35 further comprising conditioning at least one of the further accesses to the patient data upon prior access by a plurality of predetermined prior entities whose accesses are not dependent upon each other's access.

37. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 35 further comprising controlling access to the patient data using biometric and electronic security.

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